

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

1400 So. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718

(406) 994-4042

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Eagle Ridge Ranch Shooting Preserve

Application Date: 4/17/98

Name, Address and Phone Number: Sheryl Nicholas, 113 Elk Cr.
Road So., Wilsall, MT 59086

Project Location: 7 miles NE of Wilsall, MT. Parts of Sec. 30,
25, 36 T4N, R10E & T4N R9E

Description of Project:

This is a 1280 acre shooting preserve open to the public on a limited basis and will be stocked as needed. The preserve will be stocked with pheasants, chukar partridge, Hungarian Partridge and Merriam's Turkey. The ranch already has a shooting preserve, this is an addition of new acreage (800 acres).

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

Park

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats			X			See 1.2 Below
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectional odors				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

1.2 A limited number of Hungarian partridge and sharp-tail grouse exist in the area, which may be impacted by disease transmission from artificially propagated partridge. This potential threat should be reduced by obtaining original birds from a licensed bird breeding facility, which is required by law.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income			X			See 2.6 Below
7. Access to and quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

- 2.6 Since the ranch now intends to start promoting the commercial shooting preserve it may involve additional employment and money added to the local economy.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

No

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action Alternative:

No shooting preserve would be started on this property. Land use would remain the same with no change in upland game bird populations and habitat. There would be no danger of diseases or gene pool alteration from introduced birds. No additional profits would be generated and no additional demands would be placed on state government.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations) for license:

None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

EA prepared by: Hank Fabich

Date Completed: October 4, 2000

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

The proposed action does not require an EIS because there will be no significant impacts. An EA is the appropriate level of analysis because the project will not involve meaningful alteration.

Describe public involvement, if any:

A legal notice requesting public comment on this draft will be placed in the Bozeman Chronicle and Livingston Enterprise. Copies of the Environmental Assessment were sent to neighboring landowners. The public comment period will run for 10 days, comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., October 16, 2000. Any comments can be sent to Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Nicholas EA., 1400 So. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718, or e-mailed to jkropp@montana.edu.

Recommendation for license approval:

Jed Petterson 20/3/00
Wildlife Manager Date

James W. Kropp 10-3-00
Warden Captain Date

